



## Introduction

**California Perspectives in Healthcare** is designed to provide an overview of healthcare facilities and services within each of California's 58 counties. There is a section for each county plus a statewide section. Each of the sections is further divided into four parts and includes: 1) demographic information; 2) an overview of healthcare resources; 3) hospitalization characteristics; and 4) trends for births and deliveries and selected conditions, procedures and injuries.

**California Perspectives in Healthcare** is intended to raise issues and questions. These questions should help focus our efforts to seek better solutions to the challenges facing us in today's healthcare environment.

Competitive market forces play an ever-increasing role in shaping California's healthcare delivery system. Timely and accurate information about costs and quality of care is essential to enable all stakeholders to make the informed choices that are necessary in an efficient, competitive marketplace.

In this environment, OSHPD's healthcare data programs have become increasingly important sources of information needed by providers, purchasers, insurers, managed care organizations, consumers, and government healthcare delivery, purchasing, licensing and public health programs. Demand for health data will continue to increase as better information is sought to address health outcomes, resource utilization and availability, and health policy development.

**OSHPD's Healthcare Quality and Analysis Division** strives to meet this demand by providing products and services to the public. Its mission is to improve the health of all Californians by providing timely and useful healthcare information to:

- Help all California consumers make informed choices of healthcare providers, plans and treatments
- Assist healthcare providers to improve quality of care
- Help purchasers better determine value
- Enhance efforts of healthcare professionals and researchers in advancing evidence based-medicine